PENNSYLVANIA LESBIAN/GAY SUPPORT NETWORK

VOL. III No. 4

NEWSLETTER

MAY 1980

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY MAY 17

1407 N. Front St., Harrisburg

AT OUR LAST MEETING

We were greeted by near perfect weather as we met for the April meeting, In State College. The Network expresses its thanks to the members of Homophiles of Penn State for their hospitality and their assistance in making arrangements for us to meet. There were three major items on out agenda.

First we discussed the proposed budget for PRIDE '80. The co-chairs of the planning committee, Mary and Rodger, presented a balanced budget of approximately $4500. On the expense side are costs for printing and publicity, entertainmetn, the annual Pride banquet, and administration. The income will be derived from registration fees, program sponsorships, booth registration fees, contributions, and possibly some fundraising activities. Several suggestions were made for the revision of the proposal, and the committee will take these into account when they present the final budget for approval at the May meeting.

Though the Network was not able to do as much as we had hoped for the Spring Primaries, what information we has gathered was shared. We also heard updates from the Pittsburgh area and from the Central Penna. Gay Alliance on work they had been doing. The positions of candidates who responded to questionaires or personal contact were discussed, and we encouraged everyone present to exercise their right to vote. Discussion of involvement in the Fall general elections will take place at the next several meetings of the Network.

We concluded the meeting with a screening of the film "Gay, Proud and Sober" and a discussion of the problem of alcoholism in the Lesbian/Gay community. It would be difficult to detail all the comments made after the film, but several points were made. Most treatment facilities and counselors in Pennsylvania still need education on the special needs of our community. There are, however, a few rehabilitation centers in the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas,where Lesbians and Gays can feel comfortable, and there are Alcoholics Anonymous/Alcoholics Together meetings for Lesbians and Gays in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Lancaster, the Lehigh Valley, and Philadelphia. More education is needed in our own community on the sensitive nature of alcoholism in order that we may all be better prepared to deal with those of our people who have a drinking problem. Finally, we realized that alcoholism in the Pennsylvania Lesbian/Gay community is an on-going problem, and any efforts the Network, local groups or individuals make on behalf of alleviating the situation are important. The Network will continue to consider alcoholism a priority issue.

SPECIAL NOTE!!

The next meeting, Saturday May 17th, will not be held at the Friends Meetinghouse, as they will be using the entire building for a special weekend retreat. We will meet at 1407 N. Front Street, in Harrisburg, at the ususal time — 1PM. Front St. parellels the Susquehanna River (about six blocks west of the Meetinghouse), and the meeting site (a private home) is three blocks north of Herr St. A sign, with directions on it, will be posted at the Meetinghouse, in case the above instructions are insufficient.

AT OUR NEXT MEETING

The May meeting will be Saturday May 17th, at 1407 North Front Street, NOT at the Friends Meetinghouse. (See special note.) This meeting will primarily deal with the state conference - PRIDE '80 - October 3,4,5 in Harrisburg. We finalize the theme, generally outline the schedule, plan the publicity, and adopt a budget. Help will be needed, and at this meeting we will be asking for volunteers to chair sub-committees on the various aspects of the conference. As we move into a new decade, it becomes essential for the eventual success of our struggle for full equality and rights, that the Pennsylvania Lesbian/Gay community have opportunities to gather and exchange ideas, resources and strengths. If you would like to be a part of the 5th State-wide Lesbian/Gay conference, please attend this meeting.

AT THE JUNE MEETING

The June meeting will be on Saturday June 14, at the Friends Meetinghouse in Harrisburg. At this meeting we will, of course, be continuing plans for PRIDE '80, as well as discussing strategies for the Fall elections. Several proposals for increasing the Network membership and expanding our outreach programs to rural areas of the state have been made, and we will consider these at this meeting.

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